

Full-service engineering support is life blood of Europe Region Medical Command

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For Europe Region Medical Command facilities, engineering is a matter of life and death.

"If an oxygen system in surgery fails and the built-in alarm doesn't go off because there is a simultaneous circuit failure at an outlet, brain damage occurs within eight minutes. For us, preventive maintenance is like preventive medicine. It's vital for our patients' well being," explains Jim Medbourn, Facilities Chief for Medical Activity Wuerzburg.

"If there were a death at the hospital that wasn't attributable to sickness, natural causes or injury, investigators would be quick to inspect the facility operations and activities of the engineers," he said.

For Medbourn, "engineers" means a partnership forged between his Facilities Branch staff, the Corps of Engineers and contractors that the Corps manages. They ensure that whatever engineering contingency arises, 67th Combat Support Hospital is prepared.

"Medical Command focuses on total life cycle facility management," Medbourn, a former Wiesbaden Deputy DPW, said. "These are the most technically intensive facilities I've encountered in my career. Medical accreditation from the Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations (JCAHO) depends on the engineer's ability to prove we've systematically handled preventive maintenance, repairs and systems improvements."

With the hospital and 39 medical, dental and veterinary clinics scattered from Bamberg to Bad Aibling, the Wuerzburg Medical Activity has an in-house staff of seven preventive maintenance and project managers who plan, program and organize the work.

They rely on the Corps of Engineers for technical expertise and to cost effectively and efficiently match up contract methodologies with engineering problems. In many cases,



Facilities Manager Jim Medbourn reviews clinic renovation plans with Project Engineer Steve Mlecik.



Medical projects at Wuerzburg include the conversion of an old motor pool to medical offices and renovations of the psychiatric, OBGYN, and social services clinics.

this means synchronizing the activities of several contractors to keep project sequences and hospital operations flowing smoothly.

For example, a JOC contractor may be doing asbestos abatement at the same time the Medical Remediation contractor is renovating the psychiatric clinic. All the while the Operations and Maintenance Engineering Enhancement (OMEE) contractor is working preventive maintenance on utility systems. Their efforts have to be coordinated to minimize the impact on doctors and patients.

Europe District Project Engineer Steve Mlecik works in Medbourn's office, shoulder to shoulder with the Wuerzburg Medical Activity staff. Mlecik works with the OMEE contractor and is the contracting officer's representative (COR) for the Medical Remediation Contract. He works with the medical staff to develop scopes of work and prepares the delivery orders and government estimates. He manages and inspects projects, and documents preventive maintenance. He also taps the services of planning, design and environmental experts at District Headquarters in Wiesbaden for support.

Europe Region Medical Command now taps the Corps of Engineers for full-spectrum engineering support for all medical facilities in Germany. Europe District has collocated a project engineer at the Landstuhl and Heidelberg Hospitals in addition to Wuerzburg. They serve as the MEDCOM facility managers' single point of contact for the Corps.

At Europe District headquarters in Wiesbaden, Doug Baird is the Medical Facilities Program Manager. He works with the Europe Region Medical Command Engineer Maj. Guy Kiyokawa and his staff coordinating medical projects. Europe District's medical support to the ERMCOM program cur-

rently includes 70 projects in design or construction.

At the Landstuhl Regional Medical Center, Facility Manager CW3 Mike Arseneau and Corps' Project Engineer Robert Steen worked together to award over \$1.7 million in projects and delivery orders for FY97. Arseneau has 24 outlying clinics in Germany and is also responsible for clinics in Belgium and Italy.

A \$2.5 million renovation of the health clinic at Baumholder is currently under construction — the second phase of a three phase improvement.

"One of our special engineering challenges is project phasing," Kiyokawa said. "We have never closed our medical operations. We carefully phase projects in stages that allow us to transition clinics, patients and equipment into different parts of the facility as needed. We start working transitioning issues early in design because it affects the entire life of a project."

At Heidelberg, Facilities Manager CW2 Tom Black and Corps' Project Engineer Mike Coggin developed over 40 de-



livery orders for nearly \$1 million in repair projects. Heidelberg has 23 outlying clinics.

"We are currently working on a design to dramatically improve the quality of care environment for patients in our major outpatient clinics, Black said. "We are completely renovating Building 3617. We will be realigning functional relationships between the clinics to enhance efficiency and modernize the standard of care."

Europe District has also developed OMEE hospital maintenance contracts for the Air Force for hospitals in Frankfurt, Germany and Incirlik, Turkey. Current efforts are underway to develop an OMEE contract for Army facilities in Italy.

All maintenance, repair and modernization projects are aimed at improving the quality of care for the military and their families in Europe and are part of Europe Region Medical Command's Facilities Master Plan.



Facilities Engineer Heather Weir and the medical staff clarify their renovation requirements with Philipp Holzmann, construction representative and Steve Mlecik.